Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 20 Dec 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 21 Dec 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 19 Dec 2024 at 11:30

Confidence: High for general developments. Medium for cloud details.

Headline for Friday 20 Dec 2024: Outbreaks of rain, summit gales and severe wind chill.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 20 Dec 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Fog	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
10%	10%	30%	80%	90%	60%	30%	20%

Forecast for Friday 20 Dec 2024

Weather: Mainly dry overnight with patchy cloud cover and some clear spells. Lowering cloud by dawn with outbreaks of rain during daylight hours, heavy at times. The cloud lifting and breaking around dusk with a scattering of showers, any showers wintry over the summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% daylight hours. 80% early and late in the period.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base around 600m during daylight hours, occasional or patches to 300m. Occasional or patchy cloud near or above the summits early and late in the period. Visibility often moderate to very poor during daylight hours, but mostly very good early and late in the period.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 20 Dec 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	25/31 W	26/33 SW	33/43 SW	36/47 SW	39/51 SW	29/38 W	29/38 W	25/34 W	28/38 W
600	20/28 W	21/30 W	28/39 SW	30/42 SW	32/45 SW	24/35 W	23/34 W	21/31 W	23/35 W
300	7/22 W	9/24 W	12/31 SW	14/34 SW	14/36 SW	12/30 W	11/29 NW	11/26 W	12/29 W
Valley	7/20 W	9/23 W	14/31 SW	16/33 SW	17/36 SW	12/27 W	11/25 W	11/24 W	14/28 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-1/-9	-0/-8	0/-7	1/-7	2/-6	2/-5	1/-7	0/-7	0/-7
600	1/-6	2/-4	2/-4	3/-3	4/-3	4/-2	3/-3	2/-4	2/-4
300	3/-0	4/1	5/1	5/1	6/2	6/3	5/1	5/1	5/1
Valley	5/4	7/4	7/4	8/4	8/4	8/5	8/5	7/4	7/4
Freezing Level*	700m	900m	1100m	1200m	1300m	1200m	1000m	1000m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing further to add.

Forecast for Saturday 21 Dec 2024

Weather: Lowering cloud and outbreaks of rain and drizzle developing overnight. Outbreaks of heavy rain possible during the morning, but becoming drier and brighter by midday with the cloud lifting and breaking. Some heavy, squally showers during the afternoon and evening, these turning increasing wintry with snow down to around 400m by the end of the day. Stormy winds also developing at height.

Maximum wind: West 40 to 50mph gusting 70mph with severe wind chill and buffeting.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% overnight and early morning, rising to around 80% by midday, but lowering significantly as the blustery showers move through.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base 300 to 600m, overnight and early morning. The cloud then lifting and breaking near or above the summits, but lowering 500m or less in the heavy showers. Visibility moderate to very poor at first, becoming mostly very good, except in showers, the showers leading to temporary blizzard and whiteout conditions later.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 to 7 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 2 to 4 Celsius, falling Zero to Minus 2 Celsius from dusk.
Freezing level: Above the summits, lowering 400 to 500m by the end of the day.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 19 December2024 Location: Swirral Edge summit nr Helvellyn at 11:45. Full report: Winter conditions have returned for the time-being with a veil of snow lying above 800m. Falling overnight (Wednesday) this formed in descent into the shape of small, hail sized pellets (graupel). The clue to this being the feather like ice riming of any exposed rocks. It looks like polystyrene has been emptied over the fells. Footpaths have frozen above 685m, after yesterday's wet ground, making for a firm walking surface. Care is needed to cross any ice ribbons, though easily avoidable. The cold air temperature combined with the strength of wind makes for a bitterly cold wind- chill with protection needed to cover exposed skin (hats, gloves, buffs). Micro-spikes could be useful for walks or scrambles of a more adventurous nature. Full winter kit will still be needed for Friday with a slight rise in temperature, rain and sleet in the forecast. Getting caught out or injured will quickly lead to hypothermia. It was great to see young adults enjoying the Helvellyn range today, well kitted out, offering advice and having fun in the fells. Temperature: minus 2.3 C, Maximum wind speed 35.3 mph, Wind chill: minus 10.8 C, Average wind speed: 15.1 mph

Issued at: 1730 on Thu 19 Dec 2024

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